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EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO. EL443489499US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

8/9/99

Applicant: Rengarajan et al.

Examiner: Tran, T.

Serial No: 09/000,626

Group Art Unit: 2811

Filed: December 30, 1997

Atty Dkt No.: 97 P 7971 US 02

For: RECESSED SHALLOW TRENCH
ISOLATION STRUCTURE ...

Date: August 2, 1999

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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TC 2800 MAIL ROOM

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Before examination of the above-identified application on the merits, kindly amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 6, 9 and 11 without prejudice and amend the claims as follows:

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1. (Twice Amended) A shallow trench isolation in a substrate, said shallow trench isolation structure comprising:
 - a trench in said substrate; [and]
 - a nitride liner recessed within said trench and the nitride liner forming a partially enclosed volume, said partially enclosed volume being completely filled with a dielectric material which also completely fills the trench, such that an uppermost surface of said nitride liner is disposed below a transistor channel depth of a transistor disposed in a well beside said shallow trench isolation structure[.]; and